

From: Shane Baker
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 4:26pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

I would like to take a moment to express my dissatisfaction with the proposed settlement in the Microsoft anti-trust case.

Without going into great detail expressing each individual concern, I would like to outline one specific concern. Please understand that I do this to save both the reader and the writer time and it is not meant to suggest that I find the remaining provisions to be adequate.

Section III.A.2. appears to specifically allow Microsoft to retaliate against any OEM computer vendor that ships computers with a competing operating system but with no Microsoft operating system. I can see no reasonable reason that Microsoft should be permitted to retaliate against any OEM vendor for shipping a customer order as per a customer's request. If I purchase a computer from a vendor and request that they load Linux on it, I can see no reason that I would want to pay the extra fees incurred in having a competing Microsoft product installed. If the computer came configured in this way, I would have to pay more and I would have to reconfigure the computer anyway thus eliminating any value offered by the vendor.

I hope that the proposed settlement is not allowed to pass with its current shortcomings and shortsightedness. I am very appreciative of the fact that the legal system has stepped up to the plate to attempt to do something about these real and pressing issues.

Thank you for your time,
Shane Baker
Stroudsburg, PA.